148. Larger employment of Mahomedans in the Public service.

Sahib Bahadur G. Sayyid Taha Sahib (Member, Nominated) dwelt at length on the question of the employment of Mahomedans in larger numbers in the Government service and said that, like other classes, the members of his community were also entitled to the patronage of Government. There was a Government Circular already that members of the Mahomedan community should be encouraged in public service but to their misfortune, that Circular had not been brought into force. The number of qualified men in the community was very small, but even they were not properly encouraged. How many posts in the higher ranks of service in each department were held by Mahomedans, how many applications from qualified Mahomedans were received, how many of the applicants were provided with permanent posts, how many vacancies occurred in each department every year and how many of them were filled up by Mahomedans could be ascertained by calling for statements and looking into them. In some departments Mahomedans were appointed to short vacancies for two or three months, but were asked to go away when the vacancies ceased. Mahomedan young men who were acting for three or four years were asked to go away without being provided with permanent appointments. The number of appointments held by Mahomedans in Government service could be counted by the fingers. The Member therefore prayed for a legitimate share for Mahomedans in the State service. The Mahomedans were backward in education. In order that they might rise in the social scale, appointments should be given even to unqualified members in exceptional cases.

The Member next spoke about the disadvantages under which the Mahomedans were labouring for want of a Mahomedan member on the Text Book Committee. They had submitted many representations on that point, but they had received no orders.

The Member also urged the necessity of appointing Mahomedans as members of Municipal Councils and Judges of the Panchayat Courts.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will be considered. In regard to appointments in the public service, the Member is referred to the answer already given regarding the constitution of the Selection Boards.

149. Suggestions for removing the disabilities of the Muslims of Travancore.

Sahib Bahadur S. Adam Sait (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for the concessions so far granted to the members of his community and observed that sufficient attention had not been bestowed on the advancement of their education and material welfare. In regard to G. O. No. 1989 of the 31st May 1919, he said that nothing had been done to put it into operation, especially the important portions of it. The Director of Public Instruction, after taking evidence at conferences held in important Muslim centres of the State, had come to the conclusion that in order to encourage the Mahommedan community to send their children freely to departmental schools, the authorities must take steps to ensure every facility for the study of the Koran within school hours. This essential fact should be clearly borne in mind and no deviation from the principle should be made. Since the standard varied in different classes, the teaching of the Koran outside school hours was most impracticable. Government should see that proper arrangements were made to teach the Koran within the school hours in all schools. Unless that was done, a sufficient number of Muslim pupils could not be expected to join public schools, as most of the boys and girls of school-going age were now attending old *maktabs* which numbered about 700 in the State with a strength of about 25,000 pupils. He therefore requested that immediate orders might be issued to carry out this part of the G. O. and that Arabic munshis might be appointed at an early date to teach Koran.

The Member added that, though some girls' schools had been sanctioned, they had not yet been opened for lack of proper sites to be given by the people. He prayed that Government might start these schools as there still existed a lurking notion among the people that girls should not be educated in languages other than

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